

A-H [owe, R.H., Jr.]
Passerculus
1901

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.



LIBRARY

OF THE

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY.

33365

GIFT OF

Walter B. Bangs.

March 19, 1909.

OCTOBER 14, 1901.

VOL. I, pp. 1-2.

CONTRIBUTIONS
TO
NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY.

BY
REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JUNIOR,
LONGWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS.

A NEW
SUBSPECIES OF *PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS*.

In looking over the Savanna Sparrows of Eastern North America I find those inhabiting Labrador to be of as distinct a subspecies of *sandwichensis* as *savanna*, *alaudinus*, or *bryanti*. The type locality of the Eastern Savannah Sparrow is Savannah, Georgia. But the type having been evidently taken during the migrations as *P. s. savanna* is not known to breed farther south than Virginia, would hardly restrict this name to the southern bird if Wilson had not also mentioned finding it as far north as New York. The name *savanna* then being restricted to the southern form leaves the Labrador bird without a name for which I propose *Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*.

Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius subsp. nov.

Type, from Lance au Loup, Labrador, No. 4479, adult male. Collection E. A. & O. Bangs. Collected May 17, 1899, by Ernest Doane.

Geographical Range: Labrador.

Subspecific Characters: The largest of the *Passerculus sandwichensis* races. Wings, tail and tarsi longer than in *savanna*. Bill shorter and thicker. Upper parts uniform grayish black, with but little trace of rufous. Distinct white median line on crown, and with a great deal of bright yellow about the head. The eye line and ring, forehead, lores and auriculars being strongly tinged.

Remarks: There is no difficulty in separating the two races *savanna* and *labradorius* on account of the greater size of the latter, their wing measurements showing no overlapping.

Mr. Bangs, to whom I am indebted for two of the specimens, tells me that Mr. Doane told him that the species was rare at Lance au Loup, a fact that would seem to show the probability of this point being near the northern boundary of their range. In connection with ranges it is also interesting to note that the Western Savannah Sparrow (*P. s. alaudinus*) migrates in winter to the Southwest (North Carolina), proved by specimens being taken at Raleigh (see Auk, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, p. 397) and a female which I find in the Bryant Collection in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, labelled, Swan Is., Currituck, N. C., Jan. 26, 1891.

MEASUREMENTS.

Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius.

No.	Collection.	Sex.	Locality Labrador.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsi.	Bill.
4479	E. A. & O. Bangs	♂ ad.	Lance au Loup	May 17, 1899	2.93	1.98	87	39-24
4428	"	♂ ad.	"	May 4, 1900	2.87	1.95	87	41-25
Orig. 348	Bryant	juv.	East Labrador	Aug 29, —	2.77	1.94	86	40-22

Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius

Extreme measurements : W. 2.87-2.93 ; T. 1.95-1.98 ; T. 87-87 ; B. (exposed culmen) 39-41 ; 23-24 depth at nostril.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.

Extreme measurements : *W. 2.49-2.79 ; T. 1.75-1.99 ; T. 80-86 ; B. (exposed culmen) 39-44 ; 19-24 depth at nostril.

* From fifty specimens from Quebec to Pennsylvania.

